

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

/AMEMBASSY JIDDA 768

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, UR

SUBJ: PRAVDA REPORTS ON ME

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

1. THE LATEST OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF THE SOVIET MIDDLE
EAST POSITION (PRAVDA, JULY 8) IS INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNIQUE
FOLLOWING THE VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS OF TRINIDAD
AND TOBAGO. MOSCOW'S STANDARD LINES ARE REPEATED, AND
INCLUDE CALLS FOR: ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LANDS OCCUPIED
IN 1967; THE SECURING OF THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE
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PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO ESTABLISH

THEIR OWN STATE; AND, THE GUARANTEE OF THE INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE OF ALL NATIONS (READ ISRAEL) IN THE REGION. THE PARTIES ALSO STATE THAT A POSSIBLE BASIS FOR PEACE IN THE ME IS THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF "WELL-KNOWN UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS." THE PARTIES ARE ALSO CONVINCED OF THE NECESSITY FOR THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE PARTICIPATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE ON AN EQUAL BASIS WITH THE OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

2. IN THE SAME ISSUE OF PRAVDA IS A NOT UNTYPICAL ANTI-ISRAEL COMMENTARY BY POLITICAL OBSERVER VLADIMIR PERESADA IN WHICH HE PORTRAYS ISRAEL'S DEFENSE BUDGET (20 BILLION ISRAELI POUNDS) AS FURTHER PROOF OF ISRAELI AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS. PERESADA ALSO SEES EVIDENCE OF DECEPTION BECAUSE THESE ARMS EXPENDITURES WILL BE ACCCOMPANIED BY "PEACE NEGOTIATIONS." AVOIDING ANY REFERENCE TO THE U.S., PERESADA LINKS TO ISRAEL THE POLICY OF INTERIM AGREEMENTS (HE USES THE DEROGATORY TERM "DEALS") WHICH HE CONDEMNS AS SIMPLY A MEANS TO AVOID THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AND A DEVICE TO MAINTAIN THE POLITICAL AND TERRITORIAL STATUS QUO. ARAB UNITY, THE MOBILIZATION OF PROGRESSIVE FORCES, AND THE LIQUIDATION OF ISRAELI WAR-MONGERING ARE THE NECESSARY BASES FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, ACCORDING TO PERESADA.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE CRITICISM OF INTERIM AGREEMENT POLICY IS DIRECTED AT ISRAEL, PERESADA'S COMMENTS CARRY THE CLEAR IMPLICATION THAT MOSCOW MIGHT BE DISPLEASSED WITH THE PARTY WHICH CONCLUDES SUCH AN AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL. IN THIS REGARD, AN EGYPTIAN SOURCE TOLD AN EMBOFF JULY 8 THAT THE SOVIETS ARE "NOT GOING TO BE HAPPY" IF THE PRESS REPORTS CONCERNING A SECOND STAGE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT TURN OUT TO BE ACCURATE.

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